

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 1, 20, 32 and 37. The following is a complete listing of claims and replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A communication system comprising:

a controller;

a source node including a first connection control register; and

a destination node including ~~first and second input registers~~ a second connection control register; and

~~a source node including first and second output registers;~~

~~wherein said controller is adapted to access the first and the second input registers and the first and the second output registers, and~~

wherein said controller is adapted ~~to obtain information about a communication capability of said source node from the first output register, to obtain information about a communication capability of said destination node from the first input register, to select a first or a second communication protocol using the information obtained from the first output and input registers~~ as a communication protocol to be used between said source node and said destination node, to set a logical connection to be used between said source node and said destination node,

to ~~store~~ access the first connection control register to store therein information for the communication protocol selected by said controller and information for the logical connection set by said controller ~~in the second output register~~, and to ~~store~~ access the second connection control register to store therein information for the communication protocol selected by said controller and information for the logical connection set by said controller ~~in the second input register~~.

Claims 2 and 3 (canceled)

Claim 4 (previously presented): A communication system according to Claim 1, wherein the first communication protocol is a communication protocol that uses a broadcast communication.

Claims 5 and 6 (canceled)

Claim 7 (previously presented): A communication system according to Claim 1, wherein the second communication protocol is a communication protocol that does not use a broadcast communication.

Claims 8 - 16 (canceled)

Claim 17 (previously presented): A communication system according to Claim 1, wherein said controller, said source node, and said destination node are adapted to communicate with each other using a communication unit connectable to a serial bus.

Claim 18 (previously presented): A communication system according to Claim 1, wherein said controller, said source node, and said destination node are adapted to communicate with each other using a communication unit conforming to an IEEE 1394-1995 standard.

Claim 19 (canceled)

Claim 20 (currently amended): A communication method for a communication system that includes a controller, a source node including a first connection control register, and a destination node including ~~first and second input registers~~ a second connection control register, ~~and a source node including first and second output registers,~~ wherein the controller is adapted to ~~access the first and the second input registers and the first and the second output registers,~~ said method comprising the steps of:

~~obtaining information about a communication capability of the source node from~~
~~the first output register;~~

~~obtaining information about a communication capability of the destination node~~
~~from the first input register;~~

selecting a first or a second communication protocol ~~using the information~~
~~obtained from the first output and input registers~~ as a communication protocol to be used
between the source node and the destination node in the controller;

setting a logical connection to be used between the source node and the
destination node in the controller;

~~storing~~ accessing the first connection control register to store therein information
for the communication protocol selected ~~in said selecting step~~ by the controller and information
for the logical connection set ~~in said setting step in the second output register~~ by this controller;
and

~~storing~~ accessing the second connection control register to store therein
information for the communication protocol selected ~~in said selecting step~~ by the controller and
information for the logical connection set ~~in said setting step in the second input register~~ by the
controller.

Claims 21 - 26 (canceled)

Claim 27 (previously presented): A communication method according to Claim 20, wherein the first communication protocol is a communication protocol that uses a broadcast communication.

Claim 28 (previously presented): A communication method according to Claim 20, wherein the second communication protocol is a communication protocol that does not use a broadcast communication.

Claim 29 (previously presented): A communication method according to Claim 20, wherein the controller, the source node, and the destination node are adapted to communication with each other using a communication unit connectable to a serial bus.

Claim 30 (previously presented): A communication method according to Claim 20, wherein the controller, the source node, and the destination node are adapted to communicate with each other using a communication unit conforming to an IEEE 1394-1995 standard.

Claim 31 (canceled)

Claim 32 (currently amended): A controller, which controls a logical connection between a source node that includes ~~first and second output registers~~ a first connection control register and a destination node that includes ~~first and second input registers~~, wherein said controller is adapted to access the ~~first and second input registers and the first and second output registers~~ a second connection control register, said controller comprising:

a controlling unit adapted to ~~obtain information about a communication capability of the source node from the first output register, to obtain information about a communication capability of the destination node from the first input register, to select a first or a second communication protocol using the information obtained from the first output and input registers as a communication protocol to be used between said source node and said destination node, to set a logical connection to be used between the source node and the destination node, to store access the first connection control register to store therein~~ information for the selected communication protocol and information for the set logical connection ~~in the second output register, and to store access the second connection control register to store therein~~ information for the selected communication protocol and information for the set logical connection ~~in the second input register.~~

Claim 33 (previously presented): A controller according to claim 32, wherein the first communication protocol is a communication protocol that uses a broadcast communication.

Claim 34 (previously presented): A controller according to claim 32, wherein the second communication protocol is a communication protocol that does not use a broadcast communication.

Claim 35 (previously presented): A controller according to claim 32, wherein the source node and the destination node are adapted to communicate with each other using a communication unit connectable to a serial bus.

Claim 36 (previously presented): A controller according to claim 32, wherein the source node and the destination node are adapted to communication with each other using a communication unit conforming to an IEEE 1394-1995 standard.

Claim 37 (currently amended): A method for a controller, which controls a logical connection between a source node that includes ~~first and second output registers~~ a first connection control register and a destination node that includes ~~first and second input registers~~;

wherein the controller is adapted to access the first and second input registers and the first and second output registers a second connection control register, said method comprising the steps of:

~~obtaining information about a communication capability of the source node from~~
the first output register;

~~obtaining information about a communication capability of the destination node~~
from the first input register;

selecting a first or a second communication protocol ~~using the information~~
~~obtained from the first output and input registers~~ as a communication protocol to be used
between the source node and the destination node in the controller;

setting a logical connection to be used between the source node and the
destination node in the controller;

~~storing~~ accessing the first connection control register to store therein information
for the communication protocol selected ~~in said selecting step~~ by the controller and information
for the logical connection set ~~in said setting step in the second output register~~ by the controller;
and

~~storing~~ accessing the second connection control register to store therein
information for the communication protocol selected ~~in said selecting step~~ by the controller and

information for the logical connection set ~~in said setting step in the second input register~~ by the controller.

Claim 38 (previously presented): A method according to claim 37, wherein the first communication protocol is a communication protocol that uses a broadcast communication.

Claim 39 (previously presented): A method according to claim 37, wherein the second communication protocol is a communication protocol that does not use a broadcast communication.

Claim 40 (previously presented): A method according to claim 37, wherein the source node and the destination node are adapted to communicate with each other using a communication unit connectable to a serial bus.

Claim 41 (previously presented): A method according to claim 37, wherein the source node and the destination node are adapted to communicate with each other using a communication unit conforming to an IEEE 1394-1995 standard.